

A NEW SPECIES OF *BOCCONIA* (PAPAVERACEAE) FROM OAXACA,
MEXICO

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ABSTRACT

Bocconia hintoniorum B.L. Turner, *spec. nov.*, is described and illustrated from Cerro Quiexobra, Distrito Miahuatlán, Oaxaca. It is a small tree 3-5 m high having undivided, thick coriaceous leaves, and flowers with 7-8 anthers. It is closely related to the more southern *B. gracilis*, differing from the latter in having smaller, thicker leaves with minutely crenulodentate margins and fewer anthers.

KEY WORDS: Papaveraceae, *Bocconia*, México, Oaxaca, systematics

Routine identification of Mexican plants has revealed the following novelty.

BOCCONIA HINTONIORUM B.L. Turner, *spec. nov.* Figures 1-2. TYPE: MEXICO. Oaxaca: Distrito Miahuatlán, Cerro Quiexobra, 3070 m, 19 Oct 1995, *Hinton et al.* 26227 (HOLOTYPE: TEX).

Similis *Bocconiae gracili* Hutch. sed foliis crassioribus glabrisque, marginibus uniformiter minuteque crenulatis-dentatis, et antheris 7-8 (vice ca. 12).

Small tree 3-5 m high. Young stems densely hirsute. Leaves 12-13 cm long, 2-3 cm wide, pubescent at the base like the stem, often winged throughout by the gradually tapering blades, the latter narrowly elliptic to elliptic-oblongate, pinnately nervate, the margins minutely crenulodentate for about 2/3 of their length. Flowers arranged in terminal panicles ca. 30 cm long, 10 cm across, the pedicels mostly 4-10 mm long, glabrous. Sepals 9-11 mm long, 2.5-3.0 mm wide, the apices abruptly constricted forming a lanceolate extension ca. 2 mm long. Petals absent. Stamens 7 or 8. Fruits on recurved pedicels at maturity, glaucous-black, glabrous. Seeds ovoid, ca. 4 mm long, 3 mm across, the caruncle broadly conical, ca. 2 mm long.

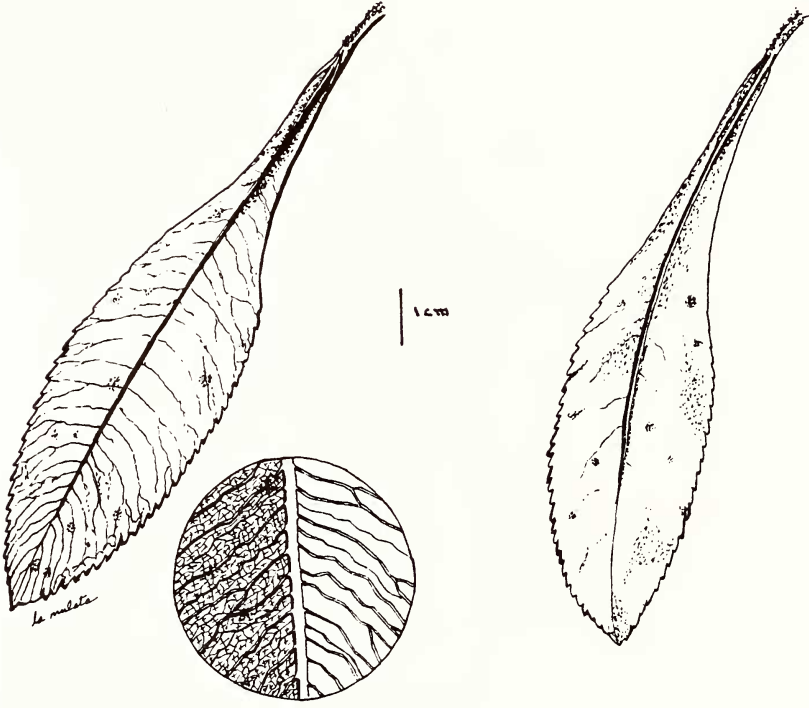


Figure 1. Leaves of *Bocconia hintoniorum*: left side (lower surface); right side (upper surface); circular inset (undersurface, showing detail); from holotype.

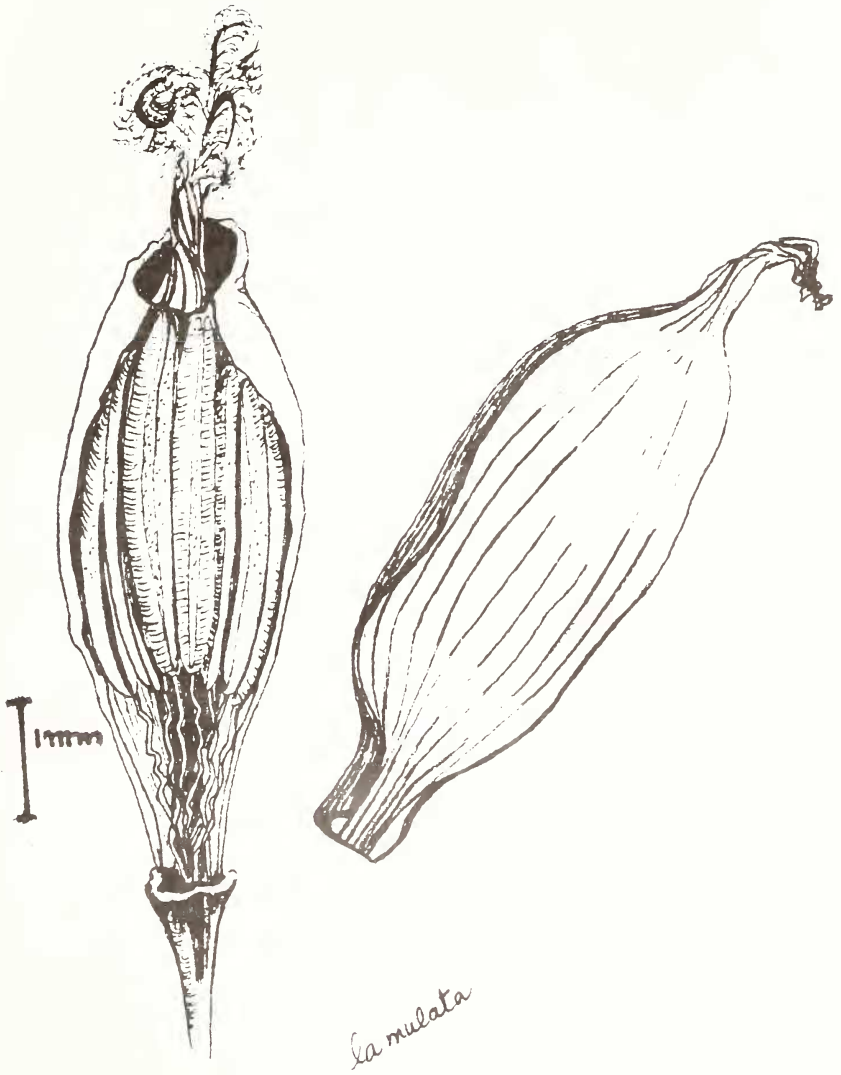


Figure 2. Flower of *Bocconia hintoniorum* with one of the two sepals removed (from holotype).

This newly described taxon first came to my attention in the fall of 1980 while on a *Bocconia* collecting expedition with Ms. Joan Johnson (accompanied by Dr. David Northington and Dr. Wayne Elisens). Ms. Johnson was in the early stages of a doctoral systematic study of *Bocconia*, having borrowed a wide range of material from various institutions so as to prepare herself for the field trip concerned. We collected the commonly occurring bocconias throughout most of México (mainly *B. frutescens* L., including *B. latisejala* S. Wats.), but were startled to find small populations of the presently described species along highway 175 in the vicinity of Miahuatlán, Oaxaca. Unfortunately, Ms. Johnson abandoned her doctoral program and failed to preserve the various collections made during this sojourn. She also left me, her major professor, with a large set of *Bocconia* specimens to annotate and return to various institutions, none of these representing the species described herein. Thus my delight to find among Hinton's numerous collections from Cerro Quiexobra, newly assembled specimens that might serve as type material for this long-remembered but unnamed taxon.

Bocconia hintoniorum will key to *B. integrifolia* Kunth in Standley's (1922) *Trees and Shrubs of Mexico*. The latter, however, is typified by Peruvian material and, as noted by Hutchinson (1920) in his account of the genus, is restricted to South America. Although the material of *B. hintoniorum* will key to *B. integrifolia* in the treatment of Hutchinson, it is seemingly more closely related to the Central American *B. gracilis* Hutch., with which it is compared here.

It is a pleasure to name this attractive new species for the Hinton family, whose collections in México are becoming increasingly legendary.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to Gayle Turner for the Latin diagnosis, and to her and Ted Delevoryas for reviewing the manuscript.

LITERATURE CITED

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Standley, P.C. 1922. *Bocconia*, in *Trees and Shrubs of Mexico*. Contr. U.S. Natl. Herb. 23:299-301.